

THE CLAIMS

It is claimed:

- 1 1. A method of testing the hearing of a user utilizing a computer system, the
2 computer system including a computer and a speaker, the computer operable to output
3 an electrical signal to the speaker, the speaker operable to convert the electrical signal
4 into a stimulus, the method comprising:
5 a) downloading a computer program from a server to the computer;
6 b) executing the computer program on the computer, the execution of the
7 computer generating an audio stream;
8 c) based upon the audio stream, generating a stimulus; and
9 d) receiving an input from the user that indicates if the user heard the
10 stimulus.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the computer program includes an audio
2 parameter and wherein the audio stream is generated based upon the audio parameter.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of downloading the computer program
2 includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via the
3 Internet.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of downloading the computer program
2 includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via an
3 email.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of downloading the program from a
2 server includes downloading an audio parameter that indicates at least one frequency
3 of the stimulus.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of downloading the program from a
2 server includes downloading an audio parameter that indicates at least one amplitude
3 of the stimulus.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of downloading the program from a
2 server includes downloading an audio parameter that indicates that two stimulus types
3 should be combined to generate the stimulus.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes
2 generating a stimulus within a user-defined frequency range.

1 11. The method of claim 1, further including:
2 a) sending first data to the server;
3 b) qualifying the hearing of the user; and
4 c) sending second data to the computer.

1 12. A method of testing the hearing of a user utilizing a computer system, the
2 computer system including a computer and a speaker, the computer operable to output
3 an electrical signal to the speaker, the speaker operable to convert the electrical signal
4 into a stimulus, the method comprising:

5 a) downloading a computer program from a server to the computer;
6 b) executing the computer program on the computer, the execution of the
7 computer program generating an audio stream;
8 c) based upon the audio stream, generating a stimulus; and
9 d) receiving an input from the user that indicates that the user heard the
10 stimulus.

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1 14. The method of claim 12, wherein the act of downloading the computer
2 program includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer
3 via an email.

1 15. The method of claim 12, wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes
2 generating a first stimulus having a first frequency and a second stimulus having a
3 second frequency.

1 16. The method of claim 12, wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes
2 generating a first stimulus having a first amplitude and a second stimulus having a
3 second amplitude.

1 17. The method of claim 12, wherein the act of generating a stimulus includes
2 generating a first stimulus having a first type and a second stimulus having a second
3 type.

1 18. The method of claim 12, further including:
2 a) sending first data to the server;
3 b) qualifying the hearing of the user; and
4 c) sending second data to the computer.

1 19. A program storage device that contains computer readable instructions that,
2 when executed by a computer system, tests the hearing of a user by:
3 a) generating an audio stream based upon an audio parameter;
4 b) based upon the audio stream, generating a stimulus;
5 c) receiving an input from a user that indicates that the user heard the
6 stimulus;
7 d) sending first data to a server; and
8 e) receiving second data from the server.

1 20. The program storage device of claim 19, wherein the audio parameter
2 indicates the frequency of the stimulus.

- 1 21. The program storage device of claim 19, wherein the audio parameter
2 indicates the amplitude of the stimulus.
- 1 22. The program storage device of claim 19, wherein the audio parameter
2 indicates the type of the stimulus.
- 1 23. The program storage device of claim 19, wherein the audio parameter
2 indicates that two stimulus types should be combined to generate the stimulus.
- 1 24. The program storage device of claim 19, wherein the act of generating the
2 stimulus includes generating a stimulus within a user-defined frequency range.